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Minden Council faces a fresh start

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

There's a new mayor in town for Minden Hills, and he is ready to hit the ground running. Mayor Bob Carter, who ran unopposed in the municipal election last month, was officially sworn into the role of mayor at the inaugural meeting of council on November 15. "This council will face a number of challenges over the next four years," said Carter, before diving into concerns around re-establishing businesses to adjust to living in a time of COVID-19, the shortage of housing and staffing available in the community, climate change, the strain on local healthcare, the degrading infrastructure, and limited financial resources. "Obviously there are many other issues that face us, so what do we do?" asked Carter, "We as a council will need to be creative and courageous as we identify our most pressing priorities."

The new council consists of returning members Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell and Ward 2 Councillor Pam Sayne, along with new faces: Councillor at Large Tammy McKelvey, Ward 1 Councillors Ivan Ingram and Shirley Johannessen, and Ward 3 Councillor Bob Sisson.

see CARTER page 2



All smiles for Santa

Kinsley and Ewelina Porzuczek with Arianna Austen were all smiles on the Minden Girl Guide and Minden Home Hardware Building Centre float. Over 20 organizations and local businesses braved the cold in this year's Minden Santa Claus Parade, smiling and waving to everyone they saw. See more photos on pages 9 and 10. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

Dailloux named Deputy Mayor for AH

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Algonquin Highlands will have a new face in the role of deputy mayor. Jennifer Dailloux, who previously served as Councillor Ward 3

for the area was nominated for deputy mayor by Councillor Julia Shortreed. Dailloux is replacing previous deputy Liz Danielsen, who won the mayoral race against Mike Lang in last month's municipal election.

Upon the appointment as deputy mayor, Dailloux shared a collection of "practical

reasons" in which she is confident that she will serve the people of Algonquin Highlands well. "Having someone from the north on County Council for the first time in twelve years would be a positive change," Dailloux said. Dailloux also believes that her experi-

see DANIELSEN page 2

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Danielsen thanks voters for their faith

from page 1

ence in the role of councillor for ward 3 over the past four years has given her the “mental bandwidth to take on the additional workload,” she said.

Most importantly, Dailloux stated that she has developed “active and constructive relationships with constituents,” and wishes to increase her level of engagement and communications with the various communities of Algonquin Highlands.

Dailloux shared her overall philosophy of representing constituents not only in the region of Algonquin Highlands but as well as her newly appointed role in county council. She stated that she recognizes the fine line between listening to the frustrations of constituents, whilst honouring and respecting the decisions and regulations put in place by the township. “I make it a deliberate point to not take sides,” Dailloux said, “every experience I’ve had over the last four years, without exception, has proven that taking someone’s side is not a prerequisite for creating trust.”

Councillor Lisa Barry, who represents Ward 2 with newcomer Coun. Sabrina Richards, said she’s looking forward to making decisions that will affect the generations to come in Algonquin Highlands.

Liz Danielsen offered sincere thanks to the voters who showed their faith in her by choosing her to be mayor, and her “small but mighty” campaign team behind the effort.

“I am truly humbled, proud, and grateful,” she said. “I promise to give it my all to repre-



Pictured from left are, Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux, Councillor Sabrina Richards, Mayor Liz Danielsen, Councillor Lisa Barry, and Councillor Julia Shortreed. /Photo from Algonquin Highlands website

sent our community and all its needs.”

She threw a bouquet to former mayor Carol Moffatt who she said moved the community forward with passion and dedication. The COVID-19 pandemic, staff shortages at the township, and supply chain issues made the previous four-year term difficult.

“But through all of that, combined with a variety of other challenges, she led us with

strength and grace, continuing to make Algonquin Highlands one of the best places a person could wish to live,” Danielsen said.

The mayor extended kudos to her council colleagues for having made it through a tough election, regardless of if they won by acclamation or through the official vote tally.

“I truly envy those who were acclaimed,” she said. “This particular election has been

difficult for many of us, not just here but across the country.”

Councillors encouraged constituents to reach out to them directly at any time, with all contact information available at www.algonquinhighlands.ca.



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From left are Councillor Pam Sayne, Councillor at Large Tammy McKelvey, Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell, Councillor Ivan Ingram, Councillor Shirley Johannessen, and Councillor Bob Sisson. Seated at front, Mayor Bob Carter. The new council for the Township of Minden Hills was sworn in on Nov. 15 for a four year term. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

Carter aims to put Minden first

from page 1

“We may not please everybody with every decision,” said Carter, “but we will make decisions that are best for our community.”

Carter emphasized that while the seven people on council are dedicated to making decisions that will benefit Minden Hills overall, they cannot do it alone. He noted that while many committees, boards, and task forces were put on hold during the pandemic,

he will dedicate his time to reinvigorating these meeting options. “We will return with more robust, focused, and supported committees that will expand the ability of council to deal with the many critical issues.”

The new mayor concluded his speech with an ask of the community; “I am reaching out to all, as we need to work together for the betterment of Minden Hills.”

To get involved or to learn more about council meetings, visit www.mindenhills.ca.

Highlander of the Year awarded to advocate for youth

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Robin Carmount has officially been named the Highlander of the Year at the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala, held this past Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Bonnie View Inn. “It feels amazing to receive this honour,” said Carmount, “especially when you look at the others nominated in this category as well.”

The award for Highlander of the Year highlights a local citizen for their contribution and leadership to the community as a whole. They must demonstrate their dedication to the betterment of Haliburton County through their actions, words, and visions.

“Robin deserves to be nominated because he believes in the future of our youth and has dedicated himself to changing lives,” read his nomination form.

Carmount is a local police officer with the Haliburton OPP detachment, and is passionate about providing a safe and accessible space for the youth of the county to play, learn, and grow. He developed a series of after-school programs in Minden and Wilberforce, and for the cost of \$1, everyone is welcome to participate. At the end of the season, the participants decide how they will pay it forward, and will collectively decide on which local charity to donate to. “The program is highly successful, well-attended, and continues to run in both Minden and Wilberforce,” read his nomination form.

In 2019, Carmount developed the Haliburton County Youth Sailing Association, which teaches sailing for kids aged eight to 24, and allows opportunities to not only explore the sport

of sailing, but discuss teamwork, community support, and advocacy for mental health in youth.

Carmount’s nomination form sang his praises for the dedication and commitment he has to the community. “Robin is a quiet, get-it-done person who asks for nothing in return for the work he’s doing; and who spends his personal time not only overseeing and organizing the programs but participating in them himself.”

After winning the award, Carmount stated that he believes there is more to do for the youth of Haliburton County. “There’s always more work to be done for the young people in our community,” he said. “We need more things for kids to do.” For a full list of winners from the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala see below.

Robin Carmount was recognized as Highlander of Year at the Haliburton County Chamber of Commerce 2022 Business and Community Achievement Awards. Carmount is instrumental in the development of youth recreational programs across the county. /Photo submitted by Tim Tofflemire



Business and Community Achievement Awards celebrate success

The 14th Annual Business and Community Achievement Awards were held at the Bonnie View Inn on Nov. 19. A successful evening (a return after a pandemic related cancellations) buzzing with enthusiasm for this in-person return.

The chamber would like to thank the sponsors who made the evening possible:

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Mark Bell, President of the Chamber said, “Congratulations to all the nominees and award winners. It is terrific to see these people and organizations recognized for their contribution and leadership in our community. It was also great to be able to celebrate this success in person at the Gala at Bonnie View Inn. The evening was made possible by the support we received from event sponsors Heat-Line and Haliburton Chrysler.”

2022 Business and Community Achievement Award Winners:

- Highlander of the Year - Robin Carmount
- New Business - The Noble Barber
- Tourism and Hospitality - Abbey Gardens Community Trust
- Young Professional - Nick Folco – The Noble Barber
- Innovation and Creativity - Haliburton Forest Biochar
- Not-for-Profit - TIE - Youth Wellness Hub - CKHA Canoe FM

- Customer Service Business - Lakeview Motel & Resort
- Customer Service Employee - Rebel Grooms – Timber Mart
- Industry and Trades - Minden Auto Care
- Business Achievement - Linda Baumgartner
- Entrepreneur - Amy Joanu – Beauty Basics
- Wardens Award to Point in Time
- Fleming Crew sponsored Employer of the Year – Haliburton Electric

Jamie Schmale MP and Laurie Scott MPP presented all winners with official scrolls congratulating all on their achievements.

The chamber wishes to thank the Bonnie View Inn for their exceptional hosting, Nick and Benton for their live performance, community and media partners, attendees and Kirstley Dams for her exceptional work planning the event.

Submitted by Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

November 24 – Regular Council Meeting
December 8 – Regular Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in December.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/council/. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

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Come join our team! Stay informed of current job postings by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for a list of available employment opportunities.

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

Try wool dryer balls instead of disposable fabric softener sheets. They reduce packaging waste, eliminate static and reduce drying time by up to half! And for detergent, try laundry strips instead of plastic jugs. Small changes can make big reductions in your waste.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots.

Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

TENDER OPPORTUNITIES

Keep informed of current projects available to bid on by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/tenders/ for a list of available tender opportunities.

Education workers, government agree to tentative contract

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Education workers and the provincial government agreed to a down-to-the-wire tentative agreement Nov. 20 that staved off a strike that was to kick off the next day.

Details of the tentative agreement are scarce. It's been reported the Canadian Union of Public Employees secured a 15 per cent wage increase for its members over the life of the four-year pact. That's about a \$1 an hour raise.

The union is taking the proposed contract to its 55,000 members to vote to accept or refuse the deal.

Secretaries, clerks, computer technicians, custodial and maintenance staff, and educational assistants represented by the CUPE walked off the job Nov. 4 in protest of Bill 28.

That legislation, the Keeping Students in Class Act,

was designed to make a strike by CUPE members illegal. Government used Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, called the Notwithstanding Clause. It was the first time any of Canada's premiers used that clause.

The labour action was short-lived, and picket lines were dismantled days later when the crowd at Queen's Park agreed to repeal Bill 28 if negotiators for both sides would resume talking.

Fast forward to last week when the union threatened to hit the streets Nov. 21 if an agreement couldn't be reached over the weekend.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) warned parents that schools would close and classes will be held online. Such arrangement was averted, thanks to the Hail Mary effort to bear fruit on the final day.

This is the first tentative agreement reached through the 2022 round of collective bargaining in the education sector.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce said government's focus throughout negotiations with CUPE has always been to keep children in school.

"I am pleased to formally announce that the Crown, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), and the school board trustee associations have reached a tentative agreement that keeps schools open so that kids can stay in class," he said in a prepared statement.

"This is not a win for governments or education unions. It's a win for Ontario families who finally have peace of mind knowing their children will remain in the classroom. After two and a half years of unprecedented disruptions, nothing matters more than stability in our schools. We are pleased to have reached a deal today that will make sure kids are in class catching up on their learning."

Hospital foundation welcomes new executive director

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lisa Tompkins feels confident the helm of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation is in good hands under the stewardship of Melanie Klodt Wong.

Tompkins spent 20 years with the foundation, the last five as executive director after 15 years as a volunteer member of the board. She is retiring and has passed the torch to Klodt Wong, who has taken the reins as the foundation's new executive director.

And Tompkins said she's thrilled Klodt Wong was chosen to be her replacement.

"She's really going to take this foundation forward," she said. "Melanie has learned a lot about the organization very quickly and I have the utmost confidence she's going to keep doing great things here."

Klodt Wong exhibits an eagerness to delve face-and-eyes into her role at the foundation which is a conduit between the community and its health care services.

"I'm feeling very supported as I look to what we're going to do next and what's coming," Klodt Wong said.

Klodt Wong grew up in a rural community in the Niagara region, but she would cottage and spend a lot of time in the Haliburton County area when she was younger, she said.

"My understanding of community and how vast this community is ... I have a good understanding of that," she said of the unique mixture of full-time and seasonal residents.

"I am enjoying learning and meeting new people and building relationships within the community. I've had the good fortune of working with such a supportive board of directors. Lisa Tompkins has been fantastic transitioning over with me."

Tompkins said she'll miss her involvement with the foundation, and she'll maintain some form of connection as part of the public.

"I've really seen how this very generous community has time and time again, year over year, supported quality health care in this community," she said.



Lisa Tompkins, left, is passing off the executive director position of Haliburton Highlands Health Services to Melanie Klodt Wong, who is eager to dive into her new role.
/VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

That community support makes the role of executive director easier.

"It's really knitted into the fabric of this community," Tompkins said.

Klodt Wong said there's already been so much work done over the years to build a fine health care system and important community services. The foundation just launched its annual holiday season fundraising campaign.

Some of the priorities for the campaign include a nurse call-bell system for long-term care homes which will improve communications and help people feel more secure in their environments. The foundation also has its eye on new smart intravenous (IV) pumps.

"We're raising funds for both of those major things, as well as community services," she said.

Community services like Meals on Wheels have made more of an impact in light of heightened food insecurity and the current tighter economy. To that end, the foundation is subsidizing the program that delivers food to senior citizens and people with disabilities.

"This is a big time of year for us," Klodt Wong said. "For getting funds for big projects and the hospital. We raise a lot of money around the holidays."

The foundation hosts an online 50/50 lottery each month, and Klodt Wong said this time of year presents an opportunity for people to gift tickets to family and friends.

"We have some really big goals, and we want to raise more money than we have in the past," she said. "We have a few different options and different ways people can give."

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Highlands Christmas Shindig is back

by JERELYN CRADEN
Special to the Times

The show must go on, and it did, and it will again on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Northern Lights Pavilion! Now in its ninth year, Fuel for Warmth's signature community fundraiser – Highlands Christmas Shindig – has defied being shutdown by the pandemic for two years in a row with live-streaming of the event, raising \$45,000 last year which helped to heat the homes of Haliburton residents in need. This year, with rising inflation, the need is even greater.

The brain child of past Highlander of the Year Mike Jaycock, and his exuberant Canoe FM on-air co-host Lorraine McNeil, (who has since passed away), brought to life the Shindig's engaging hosts, Dame Beatrice (Jaycock), and Elf (McNeil), with the assistance of Sir Cedric (Jaycock's brother, Peter).

This year the baton is being passed to two new Shindig co-hosts: the ever-handy Marple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) and the super organized/always on schedule, Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm).

"Fuel for Warmth (FFW) is a great cause and we're excited to be hosting this year," Bingham said. "We have a whole team of volunteers who have been working behind the scenes: David and Betty Mills, Sean Pennylegion, Heather Smith, Jack Brezina, Jennifer Hughey, Sue Waite, Barb Murphy, Mark Tomlinson, Tammy Rae, and Jim Love, with additional transitional support from Mike Jaycock, Joanne Barnes, and Lorne McNeil."

Shindig's great entertainment lineup

Bingham excitedly shared the list of this year's Shindig acts. "Classic rock musician and performer, Jeff Moulton and Dan O'Neill with special guest Doug Hall. A skit from the Rural Roques featuring Kate Butler and David Zilstra. Two excerpts from The Nutcracker performed by the Skyline Dance Studio, Melissa Stephens and Tom Regina. The Recycled Teenagers: Drew Allen Jodi Timgren and guests.



Robin Duke, who acted as Wendy Kurtz from the Schitt's Creek television show, shows how her "pashmona" wrap can be used in the case of an "accident" at the Annual Highlands Christmas Shindig in 2021. /FILE

And, the ever-popular, Gord Kidd & Friends."

Shindig's great raffle prizes

You won't want to miss out on your chance to win some great prizes donated by the following local businesses: Abbey Gardens, Wintergreen Pancake and Maple Syrup Barn, Wind in the Willows Spa, Rails End Gallery, Haliburton Highlands Brewery, HaliUkes, Miners Bay Lodge, the Canopy Tour from Haliburton Forest, Folk Society, Highlands Summer Festival and the Wine Store. \$10 for a strip of 12 raffle tickets or 3 strips for \$20.

Fuel for Warmth also passes the baton

Taking the reigns this past summer as Executive Director of FFW from its founder, Joanne Barnes – Jennifer Hughey said: "It was a great opportunity to give back to the community and to the county as a whole. The need in Haliburton County compared to other areas in Ontario is substantially greater when it comes to affordable or attainable housing as well as individuals who have to make hard choices at the

end of the month when it comes to their bills and basic necessities like groceries, fuel for their vehicle and heat for their home. We are hoping to raise the same amount as last year, if not more, considering that the need is greater than it has been in the past."

As early as last September, FFW began receiving inquiries for aid. "There are a lot of new people in need, with small families and young children," Hughey said. "The Shindig is a great way to help support the community and have a great night out."

Shindig tickets

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased in person at Up River Trading Company in Minden or Haliburton, or call Betty at 705-457-1354.

Contact information for Fuel for Warmth is on their website: fuelforwarmth.com or email fuelforwarmthincorporated@gmail.com or phone 705-854-9208.



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Of leaders and bucklers

LEADING in the best of times is difficult enough. Leading in these hard-scratch economic times takes a toll beyond my comprehension.

For the best leaders, anyway.

Newly minted mayors and councillors in Haliburton County municipalities have been sworn in, taken office. Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen made some interesting comments during her first meeting in the Big Chair.

“Anyone who has tossed their name into the political ring, even at this level, learns quickly that, while you can please a good percentage of the residents, whether seasonal or fulltime residents, we can never please everyone,” Danielsen said as part of her comments after swearing her oath of office. “If there is a divide, then we need to work together to close that gap and assure everyone that we are making decisions in the best interest of the municipality over all.”

And that’s one of the hallmarks of good leadership: Decisions based outside your own appetites.

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton had a somewhat radical idea. He suggested at their inaugural meeting that a new central town hall be constructed. The existing scattered buildings that house municipal staff would be turned into some form of housing.

I’m sure such a move isn’t as easy as it sounds. But it’s that outside-the-box thinking that many leaders lack.

Dysart et al Mayor Murray Fearrey kicked off the term with the acknowledgement the new council has a full plate of tasks before it. Hard days borne of staff shortages, the many municipal projects started, and a desperate need for recreation facilities. He said the provincewide troubles in the health care system have touched lives locally. And then there’s the worrisome housing deficit.

“We’ve got a lot of people that are

hurting,” Fearrey said. “We’ve got a lot on our plate.”

That’s the depth of empathy that should inform all leadership and every political and corporate level.

Those are the impressions of three of the four county mayors.

Along with Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter, they will form an upper tier authority that will wade through issues for the betterment of Haliburton County as a whole, nevermind individual municipal populations.

There are leaders who realize the weight of the responsibility to make choices that favour the greater good. To speak for others. They don’t buckle to circumstance. Instead, they try to

change the circumstances or get a bead on the best track through a particular circumstances.

Those of us who would buckle, we’re the ones usually curled in a fetal position at the foot of the bed all hours of the night, shivering uncontrollably with a mouth full of thumb. Trying to crunch the numbers in a way we can convince ourselves will work.

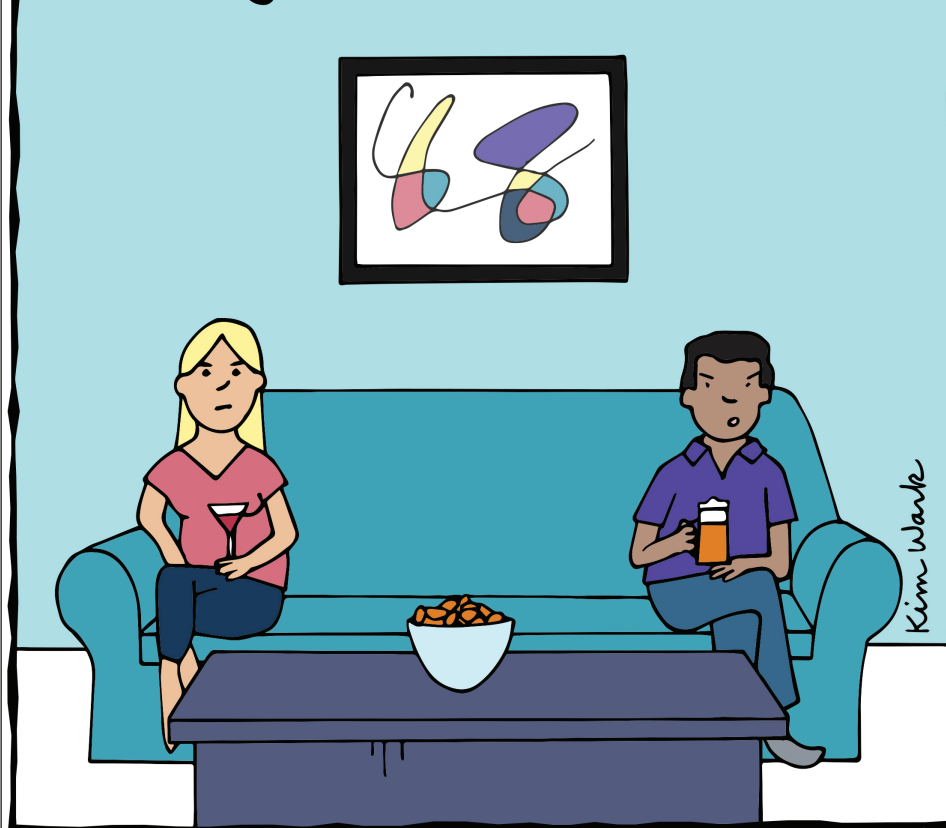
That’s why most of us bucklers, we stay from the fray. And that’s not to say everybody who vies for political office at any level are best suited to the task, either. I think we all know that. Their ambition comes from a secret place they don’t talk about and, perhaps, even they don’t know. Not fully.

Haliburton County’s residents have councils beginning afresh to face however the next four years will unfold, to work their towns through the hurdles for the benefit of the majority. That’s a heavy responsibility. Why people would campaign to shoulder such a yoke, I’ll never know. They’re better people than me, I guess.

But good leaders aren’t cowed by the responsibility. The greatest leaders know the weight, see beyond their own noses, and that’s exactly why they’re the best people to lead.

**JAMES MATTHEWS**
LJI Reporter

Kwarky



“Did you frost the glasses with your icy glare?”

Oh deer

THE OTHER day I overheard Jenn and her sister talk about how much they enjoyed a drag show they had both viewed. I naturally assumed that meant they had watched a hunter haul a deer out of the woods.

It turns out I was wrong.

That’s a shame, because as entertaining as they believe their drag shows to be, they have nothing on watching an out of shape middle-aged man try to haul a 150-pound buck up a steep hill to the road. You see, your typical drag show is a combination of spectacle, fancy footwork, physical exertion, the splits, unnatural movements, and many moments of raw emotion, insecurity, tears, and high drama. On the other hand, the kind Jenn and her sister watch merely requires make-up, heels, and a fabulous outfit – something many hunters would gladly wear if it got them out of dragging a deer.

Unfortunately, the drag show, as far as deer hunting is concerned, is almost a thing of the past these days. And you can thank the ATV for that.

That’s a shame because the prospect of dragging out a deer any distance at all was once the greatest boon to deer conservation. Back in those days, I knew guys who would not shoot any deer that was more than 15 yards from a navigable roadway. Ten, if it was an uphill drag.

Call me crazy, but I still welcome the challenge of dragging a deer through the woods – but only if it is to an ATV less than four yards away. Any further than that, and I am generally welcoming death.

I actually did drag my deer about 100

yard uphill to the road this year – at a breakneck speed of about 25 yards an hour. I would have gone faster, if not for a major disagreement between my lungs and back and the rest of my body. I also would have gone faster if I had an ATV.

The good news is the snow helped make the dragging job easier. Every time I overheated, I rolled in it.

Of course, age has much to do with that. It turns out that the middle-aged body is not meant to do these things. Oh sure, you can do them, but it won’t like it. And it will tell you that for the next week or so.

Also, topography can present a problem, because while you think dragging a deer uphill is a good idea, gravity believes dragging it downhill is a better one.

None of this mattered when I was younger. Back then, I used to drag deer out all the time with not too much effort either. These days, it seems

that the gravitational pull on deer has increased. Presumably, this is yet another climate-change related issue.

The point is dragging out a deer is a chore, but watching one being dragged out is actually quite educational (you’ll learn colourful language and phrases you never knew existed). It is also enjoyable and entertaining – provided you do it from a well concealed location. Otherwise, you will be asked to help.

That’s why I stop often when dragging out a deer to look around to see if I can catch anyone hiding. And also, if I am to be honest, to whimper and possibly roll in the snow.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Fixing social media

WHENEVER I read about global problems, I note climate change, serious pandemics, wars-military conflicts, poverty and hunger always top the list.

I'd like to add one: social media. Nothing has done more in the last two decades to spread disinformation, misinformation and manipulate the way people think.

Social media is being used to increase political conflict, promote instability and create atmospheres for violence. Its influence becomes stronger by the day.

An estimated 4.74 billion (billion, not million) people, or almost 60 per cent of the world's population, are active social media users. Those figures come from DataReportal.com, which collects and distributes data on digital information usage.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Canada has an estimated 35 million social media users, which is roughly 90 per cent of the population.

There are dozens of social media platforms, the most popular being Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Instagram, each with more than two billion users. Twitter, which is in a state of chaos, has just under four million users.

Few will deny that social media platforms spread tons of information that is twisted or simply not true.

There is talk of better policing, or even of banning social media platforms.

That's just talk. It will never happen because the most outrageous pieces of bad information get the most attention. Misinformation sells and keeps social media platforms in business. Clicks mean money and money talks.

It's impossible to police social media posting because there is so much of it. There are said to be hundreds of thousands of comments posted on Facebook worldwide every minute and 300 million new photos every day. Six thousand Tweets are sent every second.

Social media platforms lack professional fact checking. There are no editors ensuring that posts are fair, balanced and done with context that provides meaning and clarity to the message.

Despite that lack, many people are turning to social media for their news, and away from traditional professional news outlets like newspapers, which are suffering big readership and revenue declines.

So a lot of the "news" that social media users are absorbing is misinformation or outright disinformation.

Some of the inaccurate information is unintentional but some is intentional; deliberately put out there to influence thinking, or an event such as an election.

Sadly, even some of the people who are supposed to be providing us with good leadership are distributing bad information.

Two recent examples: Twitter owner Elon Musk recently posted for his 112 million Twitter followers an unfounded conspiracy theory about the attack on Paul Pelosi, husband of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Musk deleted the Tweet later, but not before it received tens of thousands of retweets and likes.

Then earlier this month, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau distributed on Twitter false information about mass death sentences in Iran. His Tweet referred to false reports that the Iranian government had sentenced nearly 15,000 people to death.

Trudeau tweeted that Canada "denounces the Iranian regime's barbaric decision."

The Tweet was deleted later, with Trudeau's office explaining that it was based on initial reporting that was incomplete and lacking context. No one explained why the initial reporting was not checked for accuracy before the prime minister made a fool of himself.

Social media can be positive. It allows us to build friendships, keep in touch with family and friends and share helpful information. It also can be an important business tool.

However, bad information distributed on social media creates confusion. When people find a situation confusing they often simply ignore it, leaving it to get worse. For instance, when health authorities say vaccines are important and social media says virus threats are a hoax, people become confused and tend to simply ignore an important health issue.

Without question, social media is shaping our world in many different ways, too many of them brutal and vulgar. We need to start recognizing this as a major problem.

Once we recognize it as a serious problem, we can start finding ways of fixing it. We need to lift social media to a higher level – a level in which information posted is important, accurate and capable of building a better world.



Last year's freshly-fallen snow blankets a barn. /Submitted by Guenter Horst

Please welcome Emily Stonehouse as the new editor

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Emily Stonehouse as the new editor of the *Minden Times*. Emily is a great writer, photographer and story teller who is passionate about where she lives, works, writes, and plays – Minden! Emily grew up in the Highlands – her family lives here, and her

roots are here. Emily will be providing the readers of the *Times* a unique weekly snapshot of our town that I'm sure you will enjoy.

Happy reading!
David Zilstra, Publishers

Correction

Please note in the Nov. 2 edition of the *Minden Times*, the *Moose Trail to reopen after large donation* submitted story incorrectly stated that the \$7,200 was donated for the reopening of Moose Trail by the family of Anu Lellep. The \$7,200 was donated by friends of Lellep and community members and collected by Wally Ozog.

In the Nov. 9 edition of the *Minden Times* on page 18, please note the same correction as above. Additionally, it was incorrectly stated that the warming hut was "built and dedicated to the memory of Anu Lellep." The warming hut was built several years ago by the Ski Friends of the Frost Centre. A plaque was added to the warming hut this year in memory of Lellep's contributions to the Frost Centre ski trails.

HCPL's Book of the Week



Retired detective Steve Ryan worked in Toronto's homicide squad for over a decade. For Ryan, the stories of Toronto's most infamous crimes were more than just a headline read over morning coffee – they were his everyday life.

After investigating over one hundred homicides, Ryan can never forget the tragedies and the victims, even after his retirement from the police force. In *The Ghosts That Haunt Me*, he reflects on six of the many cases that greatly impacted him – seven people whose lives were senselessly taken – and that he still thinks about nearly every day.

Available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Ho Ho Hello, Santa!

Minden's annual Santa Claus Parade was held on Nov. 19 through the downtown core. Hundreds came out to celebrate the season and wave to Santa. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



This was the first year Skyline Dance Studio participated in the Santa Claus Parade in Minden. They will be back to strut their stuff in the Haliburton Santa Claus Parade on Nov. 25.



It was all smiles as Santa made his way down Bobcaygeon Road during the Santa Claus Parade. After the parade, many visited Santa at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre during their Christmas in the Village event.



Santa Claus waved to the full streets of Minden on Nov. 19. He will be visiting Haliburton the evening of Nov. 25. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff



Kerri-Lynne Austin from On the Spot Variety was in the holiday spirit, handing out treats to the crowd before the parade started. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff



Plum Vicious of Eat Cheeserie + Cocktails and Ommmh Minden is joined by Rhea Ziorjen, 5.



Jack Brezina as Father Christmas led the way for the Minden Pride float during the Santa Claus Parade. The red coat previously belonged to the late Sinclair Russell, who was the co-founder of Minden Pride. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

A dozen makers and crafters came out to the annual Christmas in the Village, hosted at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, including Alannah Strickland, a cottager from Haliburton, who was taught the art of Ukrainian egg decorating using beeswax by her grandmother.



Christmas in the Village was held at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Nov. 19 after the Santa Claus Parade. Despite the frigid weather, Santa was diligent with reading every letter that was dropped off.

A deficit of autonomy in our economy...

THERE IS a massive misfit afoot in our community: we have people with no jobs and jobs with no people. The finger of blame goes round and round – people are lazy, jobs don't pay a living wage, downloading transportation to the worker makes working unviable, child care is unaffordable and/or unavailable, bosses manage people poorly, employees lack work ethic...

There is a grain of truth at every stop in this wheel of blame, but while we are mesmerized by the spinning, we will make no progress at posing it as a problem to be solved. So let's take a step back and re-imagine what the problem is.

In her podcast on climate anxiety, Heather McLeod cites Bren Smith cites Bren Smith, author of *Eat Like a Fish: my adventures farming the ocean to fight climate change*, who holds 'a deficit of autonomy in our economy' responsible for people withdrawing from or being unhappy in their work. McLeod sings, "I's the boy who builds the boat" to illustrate how Smith experienced autonomy in work – he took pleasure and meaning from his life as a fisherman until he could no longer tolerate its ruination of the environment and the economy. He re-imagined his relationship to the sea and the food therein to build Green Wave, a very successful and sustainable cooperative ocean farm that grows kelp and harvests it and the sea creatures that live in it.

Long ago, when I was just starting out on a social work career, doing child welfare, a school principal, after discussing the child who brought me into her world, asked why

someone like me was doing this (nasty, she implied) work. I whipped back, with the misplaced self-confidence accessible only to those not yet mellowed by the vicissitudes of life, that it was challenging work that required the best and the brightest. I feel a kinship with Bren Smith in loving hard work that demands your best; like Bren, I walked away when the institutional parenting that I was delivering children into was as dysfunctional, albeit differently so, than the circumstances from which I was removing them. Like Bren, I found other ways to attack the problem and find meaning and value in my work.



FAY MARTIN

Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

I think that medical practitioners and education workers worn out by valiant and persevering service through the long pandemic, and maybe others in the Great Resignation, feel/felt similarly to Bren, and to me, and I hope are equally successful in finding more respectful and rewarding working conditions.

We need a sense of autonomy not only in the world of work, but as citizens in a culture that is teetering on the brink of disaster (which probably describes our world almost cyclically, but that doesn't make it any less real or worrisome). I smiled, ruefully, it must be said, when a local municipal councillor mused recently that taking advantage of the volunteers who wanted to dismantle a beaver dam that was causing problems was more trouble than having paid staff do it. He was not wrong – one could see the red liability lights blinking double tempo, the insurance agent going bonkers – but there is something desper-

ately and distinctly amiss with him not being wrong. Much of the responsibility, even opportunity, for building community by contributing directly and with purpose to the things that are to our collective advantage, has been distanced from us. There is a deficit of autonomy in our democracy, as well as our economy.

The history of this community, rather like Bren Smith's early fishing days, was built on the putting together of necessary people and essential jobs. Building shelter, raising or finding food, caring for the dependent, challenging those whose actions or inactions undermined the well-being of others, creating the infrastructure that served collective need – this is the work that built our rural culture. "Progress" aside, it is still the work that keeps our culture strong and healthy.

At this very moment, we have people who need shelter, who need food, who need to be cared for, who need to be taught how to be contributing citizens, who need to be constrained from harming the general good (who, ironically, are more apt to be the privileged than the needy – greed trumps need). And not enough people who want the jobs that in theory address those needs.

But are there people who want to do the work? Like dismantling the beaver dam. Like bringing respect and dignity to illness and death. Like bringing the marginalized into mainstream culture.

I think so. But they're not doing it as a job, they are doing it as citizens. Let's re-imagine a path forward with that in mind.

Huskies howl with a win

Haliburton County Huskies forward Patrick Saini faces off with a Cobourg Cougars opponent during their game on Saturday, Nov. 19. The Huskies won 5-3 in a close battle, tying the game in the third period and then going on to score two more goals. /Photos submitted by Tim Yano



The Huskies team watches as forward Christian Stevens goes for the puck.



Haliburton County Huskies goalie Aidan Spooner looks at the puck he saved during their game.



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by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

GET TO KNOW THE HUSKIES: BOYD STAHLBAUM

Despite starting the season with a different team, Boyd Stahlbaum has quickly found his footing on the Huskies roster. Moving over from the Lindsay Muskies in October, the Peterborough, Ontario player is hungry and ready to help lead the team to glory.

Starting his career with the Peterborough Petes AAA, Stahlbaum logged 40 points in his last season of U18 which was good enough to get him noticed by OHL and OJHL teams.

"I started playing hockey when I was about three years old," Stahlbaum began. "My dad coached junior hockey like 20 years ago, so he really pushed me to play. I played two years of midget before I got drafted in the 15th round of the OHL draft. I went on to play two seasons in Lindsay and now I'm here in Haliburton."

After being drafted by the Kingston Frontenacs, Stahlbaum attended a handful of development camps before finding himself on the roster of the Lindsay Muskies. In Lindsay, he managed 76 points for the club, with 38 goals over two seasons.

He was acquired by the Huskies in a blockbuster trade on Oct. 26, and since then has put up 18 points in seven games with nine goals. When most players get traded, there is good chance that they will be moving far away from their homes as well as the team they were traded from. However, for Stahlbaum, not only is he less than two hours away from his hometown, he also was traded only 45 minutes down Highway 35, which made the transition a lot easier.

"The transition was great," Stahlbaum added. "The boys welcomed me here with open arms, and I love it here so far. The team has been great, and I feel I've played with more control which suits my style very well. I'm also playing with a lot of top tiered guys as well which I love."

The Huskies have been making huge moves over the past few weeks to strengthen the team. From bringing in goalie Aiden Spooner, players Ty Collins, Zack Terry and Luca Rea, one thing is for sure in the locker room: this team is ready and capable to win.

Sitting second in the North East division four points behind the Junior Canadiens, Stahlbaum knows his roll on the team is to help the offense and score goals.

"Every guy on this time wants to win," Stahlbaum said. "You can see it in the locker room and with the coaching staff. I think this team has a great chance to go all the way, and that's why I wanted to come here and jump on the train."

Following his junior career, Stahlbaum wants to continue playing hockey. Whether it be in school or overseas, the love of hockey is something that will never go away for the Huskies No. 42.

In only two seasons, the Huskies have had two NCAA commitments with another handful of OUA commitments as well. Despite being a new club, the Huskies have shown they are already a premier place to impress the schools.

"My plan right now is to go to school," Stahlbaum added. "Whether it is in the States or Canada I'm not too sure yet, but if for whatever reason that doesn't work out. I want to still play hockey in some capacity."



Boyd Stahlbaum, from Peterborough, Ontario, joined the Haliburton County Huskies in October, and says he loves the team and the area. /Chris Harris OJHL

Whether it be overseas, or a pro team down in the States I love the game and hope to still play."

While the Huskies push for the playoffs, Stahlbaum said he is most looking forward to the remaining divisional match ups between teams like Trenton and JRC. Each game moving forward is extra important as seeding for the playoffs has been expanded since the North and East conferences were merged.

With each divisional game being played essentially as a must win, the Huskies fans have been a huge help in propelling the team past some tough opponents.

"The support here is second to none,"

Stahlbaum concluded. "When the team scores, it gives you goosebumps with the great environment here. When we are down, you hear the fans chanting and cheering it really motivates us to try harder to win that game for them. I absolutely love it."

As the Huskies look to continue on, Stahlbaum shared one of his favourite pastimes during the off season. When not playing hockey, Stahlbaum can be found fishing around the various lakes in the County. Fishing is a hobby that requires a lot of patience; something Stahlbaum displays both on and off the ice.

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Heat Bank raises awareness for energy poverty

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The holidays may seem like a festive time of year for some, but for others, the onset of winter can be a cause for panic. “So many people are just feeling the crunch of everything this year,” said Tina Jackson, executive director of the Central Food Network and the co-founder for Heat Bank Haliburton County, “people are borrowing resources from other essential needs, in able to access the basic needs in front of them.”

With the costs of heating, cooling, and power significantly rising, Jackson is passionate about educating the public about a term she calls “energy poverty,” and the prevalence of this in the Haliburton Highlands. “On average, we are working with over 120 households every year, and that continues to increase.”

According to SIRCH Community Services, the poverty rate in Haliburton County is 17.2 per cent, with over 25 per cent of children living in low-income homes. The national average for child poverty hovers at 3.4 per cent. These statistics are pre-COVID, and it is assumed that between the pandemic and the significant increase to cost of living, those numbers are higher presently.

Heat Bank Haliburton County is a tool used by many, to access basic resources for survival throughout the year. “When people hear ‘heat bank’ they think we offer grants to provide heat, and we certainly do that, but we also work at a deeper level to provide support for the immediate concerns of each household,” said Jackson, “when we start working with a household, we think, ‘how



Heat Bank Haliburton County is has launched their online auction to support the need for affordable heating in the area. The organization works with over 120 households in the region to provide year-round support and access to resources. /Photo submitted by Tina Jackson

can we alleviate all the financial burdens for this household?”

Jackson shared that some households they work with request a delivery of firewood to tide them over until the next paycheque, while others require more in-depth services, such as funding for bills, access to tax filing support, and connections to community food banks.

The Heat Bank program is run through the Central Food Network (CFN), allowing access to a variety of services based on the needs of the community. Each year, in collaboration with Rhubarb Restaurant, the CFN runs a fundraiser with all funds raised going directly to the Heat Bank. “It is our largest fundraiser of the year,” said Jackson, “I am

always blown away by the level of support from local businesses.”

With over sixty items donated to the online auction component, Jackson confirmed that at least 95 percent of them are from local businesses. The online auction is currently open, and leading up to the in-person event at the Rhubarb on Nov. 27, the Heat Bank has raised over \$4000. Last year, the event raised over \$30,000. “I was blown away by this,” said Jackson, “that was a time that was so challenging for so many people, and there was still so much support.”

Jackson noted that the Heat Bank does not receive any government funding, so without events like the one at Rhubarb on Nov. 27 and the online auction, they would not be

able to operate. The amount raised during these fundraisers will dictate the capacity they have to assist the community throughout the year.

Tickets are sold out for the in-person event at Rhubarb at the end of the month, but the online auction went live on Nov. 12, and will remain active until Nov. 27. For more information on the online auction, go to the “Heat Bank Haliburton County, a program of Central Food Network” Facebook page.

If you or someone you know is seeking support from Heat Bank Haliburton County, or if you are interested in volunteering your time or donating, please call 705-306-0565 or visit www.heatbankhc.ca.

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Minden activist recognized with prestigious award

by ANGELICA INGRAM
Special to the Times

Longtime community activist and Lochlin resident Bonnie Roe was recently honoured with a prestigious award from a provincial health organization for her advocacy on behalf of the elderly.

In October, Roe was presented with the Orville Thacker Award by the Ontario Health Coalition for her extraordinary work in advocating for long-term care reform and protecting public health care.

Chair and founder of the Haliburton Highlands Long-Term Care Coalition, Roe has been advocating for LTC residents for the past number of years, particularly throughout the pandemic. Some of the work she has accomplished includes meeting with local politicians, developing successful petitions aimed at improving overall care for the elderly, and attending and organizing events to highlight the need for action in long-term care.

Roe was selected for the award by the Ontario Health Coalitions' board of directors for her passion and commitment to healthcare matters, said OHC executive director Natalie Mehra.

"Bonnie Roe was selected for the award because of her tireless work to improve long-term care for the elderly in her community and across Ontario. She was a co-founder of the Haliburton Long-Term Care Coalition and leads the group. Her work is truly exceptional. She wrote a petition to advocate for the federal government to take measures to improve long-term care and gathered a whopping over 5000 signatures on it. She has repeatedly met and corresponded with local MPP Laurie Scott and her staff on these issues. She organized local participation in dozens of actions and events to improve care levels in long-term care and save lives during the worst of the pandemic as COVID spread through the homes killing literally thousands of residents. She put up hundreds of lawn signs advocating to protect public health care and stop privatization leading into the provincial election. She is working with the local group and experts to advance proposals to modernize long-term care to be resident-centred, safe, home-like and provide dignity for the elderly. She always does what she commits to do, and she has worked to support every effort to win better care for the elderly. She is a joy to work with and a real community hero," said Mehra.

Roe felt incredibly honoured to be recognized with the prestigious award, particularly given Thacker's dedication to social issues.

Born in Kincardine, Ontario, Thacker was an active member in his community for more than 60 years. A member of the Royal Canadian Legion for more than 50 years, Thacker was also a member of Ontario Health Coalition and a founder and Co-Chair of Kitchener Waterloo Regional Health Coalition, according to OHC.

Roe says her dedication to the elderly comes from a desire to advocate for individuals who are not being respected or treated fairly, be it the elderly, education workers, persons with disabilities, our environment and the right to adequate housing and nutritious food, and a living wage, to name a few.

"As a society, we have truly lost respect for our elderly and for more than 30 years, and throughout the pandemic our current and previous government have blatantly shown this," said Roe.

Since forming the HH LTC Coalition, some of Roe's



Highlands resident Bonnie Roe was recently awarded with the Orville Thacker Award by the Ontario Health Coalition for her dedication and work to protect public health care. /FILE

proudest accomplishments have been promoting awareness about the LTC system and advocating for change locally and provincially. "Our petition, Save Our Seniors-Fix LTC, has over 5,000 signatures and was presented to our MPP Laurie Scott's office last year and sent to Premier Ford."

Other accomplishments include a drive-by LTC rally, a radio campaign on Moose and Canoe FM, virtual protests and a current campaign aimed at putting a stop to the privatization of our health care.

She says first and foremost though, she must acknowledge the amazing and dedicated team of coalition members she works alongside, including Brigitte Gebauer, Terry Hartwick, Dorothy Owens and Lyn Ritchie. Hartwick and Roe were hon-

oured with awards from The Institute for Change Leaders, Ryerson University.

"I feel so very proud of all that our team has accomplished," said Roe, adding being the recipients of these awards is proof that all their handwork is being recognized locally and provincially.

Moving forward, Roe hopes to continue facilitating important work for seniors and has been partnering with Re:Think Policy Change on the project Aging Together As Community. Through community discussions, the groups are focused on creating a plan about creative options for aging.

"Our elders deserve to live their final years with respect and in dignity. The road is still long, so our advocacy work must still continue!" said Roe.

It is this passion and dedication that made Roe a clear choice for recognition, said Mehra.

"In the opinion of our board of directors, Bonnie's contribution is truly exceptional. It brings alive those principles and the spirit that are foundational to our Canadian system of health care for all: that we take care of each other, regardless of wealth or income, with compassion and dignity. Orville would be proud to have his award given to such a deserving recipient."

“

Our elders deserve to live their final years with respect and in dignity. The road is still long, so our advocacy work must still continue!

— BONNIE ROE

”

Arts council administrator retires

Sadly, the time has come when the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands must announce the retirement of beloved administrator, Peggy Morgan.

Morgan's last day of work with the Arts Council will be Dec. 1. She has been with the Arts Council since 2013, guiding us through challenging times of financial restraint, tremendous organizational growth, and she has supported us in the development and delivery of countless projects that have brought the arts, culture, and heritage community together.

She has risen to every challenge with strength and humour, averting many "art emergencies." We will miss her dedication and attention to detail. We know that you join us in wishing Morgan much happiness in the next chapter of her life.

The Arts Council is fortunate to also be able to announce that Jennifer Korpela will be joining us.

Korpela will spend a few days in the office with Peggy in late November and will officially begin her role as our administrator on Dec. 5.

Korpela brings some impressive qualifications to the job as well as great communication skills. Her hours of work will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands continues to be dedicated to serving arts, heritage, and culture in the Haliburton Highlands, and we look forward to your continued support.

For additional information contact: Scott Walling, chairperson for the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands, 705-917-2021, wallingscott@hotmail.com.

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The Highlands Festival Singers are returning with their annual Christmas concert after a two-year hiatus at the Haliburton United Church on Dec. 4 and Dec. 6.



Melissa Stephens directs the Highlands Festival Singers during one of their past Christmas concerts. /Photos submitted

Highlands Festival Singers Christmas concert is back live

by JERELYN CRADEN
Special to the Times

The expression, they “sang their hearts out” is what the Highlands Festival Singers (HFS) will be doing at their much-anticipated Christmas concert, Hallelujah! We’re Back Live! on Dec. 4 and 6, at the United Church in Haliburton. Raring to go after a

two-year hiatus from performing live due to COVID, the choir will not only be spreading the spirit of joy, they will also be celebrating their 31st anniversary. With great enthusiasm, Highlands Festival Singers Director, Melissa Stephens said, “Hallelujah! We’re Back Live! is a really great concert that the choir is working really hard on ... not your typical Christmas music.

It’s a great way to start the season.” “The first concert we ever did was Handel’s Messiah,” Stephens said. “That’s where the word, Hallelujah (in the title of the concert) comes from. I will be speaking a bit about the history of the choir, and there will also be a short three-minute video of pictures taken over the past three decades that were submitted by choir members.”

Today, the HFS has thirty singers, men and women. “It’s pretty well-balanced right now,” Stephens said. “There are five tenors and five or six bass and then the rest are sopranos and altos.”

“Our first two years we did our Christmas concert at the Haliburton Legion. We did some years at the high school. And some years we split it between Haliburton United, and Highland Hills United in Minden, which has very nice acoustics,” Stephens said. Throughout the years, Haliburton United has been the choir’s rehearsal space of choice.

Behind the scenes
HFS president, Beth Kipping mentioned the great Executive she works with including: “Victoria Bingham (past president), Marsha Sweet (secretary), Norma Goodger (treasurer), and three Members at Large, Patty Luubert, Joan Hawley, and Ken Loney.”

Regarding masks
“We’ve been rehearsing with masks and will stop next week,” Kipping said. “Before the choir comes to our next rehearsal, each member will do an antigen test and send in the results. At the concert, we will perform without masks. And, for everyone’s safety, audience members will be required to wear a mask. For those who arrive without one, we will have masks on hand at the door.”

Giving back
“Every year, we give a \$500 music/art scholarship to the high school,” Stephens said. “The year of the first flood in Minden, we donated a percentage of proceeds from our concert to those whose homes were hit hard.” The HFS is ready to give back again with an inspiring concert that will kick-start the holiday season with spirit and joy.

Concert details and ticket information
Hallelujah! We’re Back Live! will be performed on Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church, Haliburton, 10 George Street. Tickets are \$15 and available at Master’s Book Store, Haliburton and Minden Pharmasave, Minden. They can also be purchased at: highlandsfestivalsingers@gmail.com by E-transfer: bkippling@bell.net, or at the door.

Musical highlights
“We’re doing two pieces from Handel’s Messiah,” Stephens said, *Worthy is the Lamb* and *Hallelujah Chorus*. We’re also doing a piece called, *Sure on this Shining Night*, which is stunning.” *Winter Wonderland* and other popular Christmas songs will be performed. “We’ll also be doing our crazy rendition of, *Deck the Halls*, with a funny time signature, and a piece called, *Christmas Goes Classical*, with all kinds of new lyrics put to classical tunes. Some are orchestral pieces, and some are from operas. It’s very different and I do not know of another group that’s done it in concert.”

A favourite choir pick
Stephens shared the choir’s excitement about performing the song, *We Rise Again*, recorded by the Rankin Family and written by Canadian composer Leo Dubinsky, from Sydney Nova Scotia. Filled with uplifting imagery, “It’s kind of like we’re rising from the pandemic,” Stephens said. “The melody is lovely, and the lyrics are inspiring and powerful.”
*When the waves roll on over the waters
And the ocean cries
We look to our sons and daughters
To explain our lives
As if a child could tell us why
That as sure as the sunrise
As sure as the sea
As sure as the wind in the trees
We rise again in the faces
Of our children*

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Fun By The Numbers

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 17

Keep track of what's happening in Minden on Instagram

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CFUW dedicated to education

Members of the Haliburton branch for the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) met at the Great Hall at Haliburton School of Art and Design on Nov. 17 for a speakers series presentation. The group meets the third Thursday of every month, between the months of September to June, with the intention of discussing relevant topics and advocacy issues in the Haliburton Highlands. "Our primary focus on the meetings is to educate members on what our community needs at this time," said chair of the Haliburton Branch of CFUW, Jenny Rieger. At this particular meeting, Tina Jackson, the executive director of the Central Food Network, presented on the need for community support and awareness of energy poverty in the region. The CFUW are actively looking to recruit more members, and they said that all are welcome. For more information or to learn how to get involved, please visit www.cfuwhh.ca. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

Tour de Forest Christmas Art Show and Sale all in one place

by JERELYN CRADEN
Special to the Times

The trickiest part of an outdoor event is, you got it! the weather. Especially in the late fall and winter. One super rainy or snowy day can ruin a whole year's worth of planning and effort. Enter, the much-loved Tour de Forest (TDF) Christmas Art Show and Sale, which is doing things differently this year. Instead of visitors driving to artists' home-studios in possible incremental weather and paying high prices for gasoline to get there, they can easily, conveniently, and comfortably shop for beautiful, unique, hand-crafted Christmas items and meet the artists who made them, in one warm, easily accessible location – indoors at the United Church in Haliburton on Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Louise Ewing, TDF jewelry maker and event coordinator said, "Before COVID there were some Christmas events, but due to the pandemic they pretty well fell by the wayside. Nicki Hagarty and I (a TDF participating artist) came up with the idea after our last tour in August. We thought that if we could get a certain number of people together who would draw a crowd inside an easily accessible place, we could try it for Christmas. We presented the idea to the [TDF] group and they thought it was great, so we rented space at the church. It's kind of a trial, and hopefully it will grow and that we can do it again next year."

Shoppers are in for a treat! Ten popular TDF artists will be selling a wide range of their hand-crafted items from paintings, pottery, clothing, fabric art, hand-beaded jewelry, and wood carving, to watercolour and acrylic paintings and stained glass. Edilicious will also be there selling frozen cheese appetizers and other specialty foods that can add great flare to holiday gatherings.

Plus, what could be more enjoyable on a cold wintry day than sipping on hot apple cider, compliments of the TDF, as you shop amongst eye-candy? Oh, yes, also hearing beautiful violin music being played by TDF contemporary landscape painter, Barb Hart. At other times, visitors will hear popular

Christmas songs as they shop.

"The TDF has been operating for sixteen years," Ewing said. "For most of the artists in the tour, this is their main source of income. This year, we've chosen the 4Cs food bank as our local charity so that we can give back to the community. We're putting up a Christmas tree and each of the participating artists are going to donate hand-crafted ornaments to hang on the tree. For example, I am donating twenty of my tiny beaded Christmas tree decorations. So, we're going to decorate the tree and also a table with beautiful hand-made cards and other Christmas gift items made and donated by TDF artists, with all proceeds from sales going to the 4Cs. Leslie Banner and Dawn Brohman, 4Cs directors, will be at the 4Cs table where visitors can also donate directly to the charity."

Ewing added, "As a group, we've decided to choose a different charity each time we host an event. For instance, we'll choose a different charity for the next Tour de Forest in August."

Stoneware and porcelain potter Charlene McConnell, a twelve-year TDF artist said, "We're really looking forward to meeting our clientele at a Christmas show that supports the 4Cs community food bank. And, of course, we're hoping that people will come out and enjoy the items we have made for Christmas and for gift giving. It's right in town, so there's not a lot of driving, and people can stop by for just a short time if they wish."

When asked what her donated Christmas ornament will be, she said, "They're mostly porcelain, and I have quite a selection of items with a hand-painted Christmas holly motif. You can hang them on a tree or on a bottle of wine that you might bring to a dinner party."

Parking and restrooms will be available at the church.

Honouring the church's mandate, visitors will be required to wear masks.

Haliburton United Church is located at 10 George Street, Haliburton.

For more information, call Louise Ewing at: 705-457-5831.

We're Back!!

Highlands Christmas Shindig

The Highlands Christmas Shindig returns with a fun night of entertainment
at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 7:30 p.m.

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The entertainment line-up includes: Drew Allen, a Dramatic presentation by Kate Butler and David Zilstra; Classical music presentation by Tom Regina and Melissa Stephens; the band, "The Recycled Teenagers" folk singer Jeff Moulton; ballet excerpt from the Nutcracker by Heritage Ballet; and Skyline Ballet; folk singer Jodi Timgren; and the band "Gord Kidd and Friends".

Highlands Chamber Orchestra presents Welcome Back!

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

The Highlands Chamber Orchestra is back for a momentous 10th season concert after a long, COVID-instilled pause in gathering.

The group got back together for the first time in two years last fall.

“It feels good. Every next-step we’ve taken has been amazing. We really got back together last fall, which was a pretty emotional moment because we hadn’t seen each other in so long,” said Dan Manley, music director of Highlands Chamber Orchestra.

The orchestra continued to plan for concerts with crossed fingers, but each time, COVID-19 health measures hindered their ability to safely perform.

“We just wanted to start playing things. We pulled some stuff out of our library and just said, ‘Let’s play some music and see what happens,’” Manley said.

The concert is taking place this Saturday, Nov. 26 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion at 7:30 p.m.

Manley has a lineup of familiar favourites including a movie music medley, *Dance of the Hours* by Ponchielli, *Lord of the Rings*, *Pirates of the Caribbean Dead Man’s Chest*, *Pomp and Circumstance*, *The Prayer* and more.

“Some of it is just music that’s been bubbling in my head. I balance that with challenges that are presented in the piece and our development level; where we’re at. Each

year, we challenge ourselves with more and more challenging music, so sometimes I’ll look at a piece, and I’ll share that with the board who are essentially the section leads,” Manley said.

Each member will say whether or not the piece works well with their section, so it is a collaborative effort. From there, a theme is formed for their concert.

“With a backlog of pieces, we try to make a theme. As we’re getting back together with a couple of different faces over COVID, we’ve had to rebuild a bit and find pieces that work for us,” Manley said.

Highlands Chamber Orchestra currently has 34 members, but are always welcoming more.

“We’re particularly looking for violins, viola, and we have an opening for a second oboe and second bassoon, and potentially a full-time horn and double bass,” Manley said.

Tickets are \$20 or \$25 for an adult with a child under 16. Call Ken to reserve tickets at 705-286-0413, or buy them in person at Russell Red Records on Main Street in Haliburton.

For more information about the orchestra or to express interest in joining for next season, contact Bethany at stringstudioworkshop@hotmail.com.

**Jane Symons, long-time
Highlands Orchestra Member,
plays clarinet during their
practice for Welcome Back!**



Glen Carter sings The Prayer during Highlands Chamber Orchestra’s practice for their 10th annual concert which will be held on Nov. 26. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Dan Manley conducts The Prayer, one of the songs the Highlands Chamber Orchestra will be playing at their Welcome Back! concert.

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EH! to address wetlands and politics at AGM

by CLEM GROB
Special to the Times

It's no secret that the Gull River often floods in the spring, leaving residents and business owners worried about when the next will be.

A natural feature of Haliburton County can help prevent floods, said Leora Berman, founder of The Land Between and Turtle Guardians.

"Muskoka and Minden experienced massive flooding which correlates to a lack of wetlands to soak up excess waters," she said. These wetlands are "vital to our future."

This is one of the points Berman will be addressing at Environment Haliburton!'s Annual General Meeting held virtually on Nov. 24 at 7 p.m.

Environment Haliburton! is an organization focused on environmental issues in Haliburton county, working to preserve Haliburton's natural environment.

Each year, Haliburton residents are invited to join their AGM, where board members discuss current issues, future goals, and allow a chance for members of the community to

voice their questions and concerns.

To start the AGM, Berman will be a keynote speaker discussing all things "Wetlands and Politics."

In her presentation, Berman will discuss important wetlands in the county and how they are being governed.

Even more recently, Bill 23, or the More Homes Built Faster Act proposed wide scale changes in the province's land use regulations.

Berman said Bill 23 will take away the ability for Ontarians to decide what happens to wetlands.

"Recognized experts have said [Bill 23] is unnecessary as there is sufficient land in the Greater Golden Horseshoe to meet needs even with increased immigration. There are great examples of ways to balance housing and conservation - Muskoka and Lanark are leaders in these arenas, and we can do the same," Berman said.

Following Berman's talk, a question and answer period will occur, and the AGM will proceed.

The president of Environment Haliburton!, Susan Hay, commented on some upcoming changes to the organization. "We have five new qualified members looking to join the board," Hay said. "It's going to bring big changes, fresh ideas

and enthusiasm."

In the upcoming year, the organization will continue to raise awareness about the "climate catastrophe," and "urge leaders to make more ambitious climate goals," said Hay.

To register for Environment Haliburton!'s AGM, visit www.environmenthaliburton.org/.

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Camp Camexicanus presents *School of Rock*

This November Camexicanus and Backroad Arts Collective is presenting, *School of Rock The Musical*.

We have been hard at work the last few weeks, practicing and recruiting for our big show. The kids have been working very hard at their lines and their songs. Our shows premiere on Wednesday Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Pavilion in Haliburton, then after that on Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m. also at the Northern Lights Pavilion, again on Nov. 25 starting at 2 p.m. in Wilberforce at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre and our final show is on Sunday, Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Pavilion.

To purchase tickets, please visit www.camexicanus.ca.

This show is fun for the whole family, it is very comedic and wholesome. Be sure to tell your friends and bring as many as you would like. All proceeds from this event will go back into this community in the form of more events and programming just like it.

Submitted

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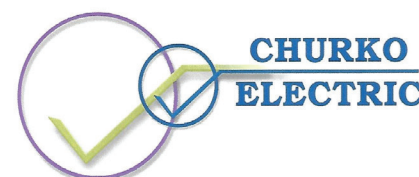
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MASTERING MAPS

Sunday November 27

1:30-4:30

Part of Skills Development
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In-person workshop
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Friday November 25 2022

School aged up to 12.

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Haliburton Highlands Museum!

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In Loving Memory of **Beatrice Elinor Berry (nee Stuckey)**

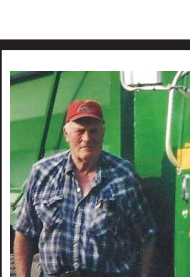
Who passed away on Friday, Nov.18th, 2022 at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home in her 100th year.

Bea was married to Donald Berry (deceased-2009). She is survived by her children: Susan (Dave), Stephen (Bonnie-Lee), Cathy (Wayne), and Donna (Andrew). Her grandchildren Kelly (Owen), Kirsten, Cameron (Joanne), Tanya (Mike), Jessica (Josh), Matthew, and Jane. Her great-grandchildren: Julia, Riley, Jay, Cassie, Cole, Broden, and Elyse. Bea was a deeply loved person by her family and her many friends. She will be greatly missed.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Friday, November 25, 2022 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Bea's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory **Ingram Wessell**

(Resident of Minden, Ontario)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Monday morning, November 14, 2022, in his 92nd year. Beloved husband of Isabel Wessell (nee Peel) for over 60 years. Loving father of Sherry (Joe), Tim (Jen), Harold (Karen), and Mike (Kelly). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Lacey (Dylan), Ben (Cassy), Shelby (Nate), Shannon (Kirk), Courtney (Steven), Cody (Jadyn), Hannah (Travis), Harrison, Jonah, Jacob, and by his eight great-grandchildren. Predeceased by his brothers Don and Rod. Ingram and Isabel owned and operated Ingram Wessell and Son's LTD. Ingram was actively involved in his Community. He served as Counselor of Lutterworth Township and Reeve of Laxton Digby and Longford Township. He enjoyed horse pulls and most of all, time spent with his grandkids and family.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends were invited to call at **FAITH TABERNACLE** 6 Albert Street Coboconk, Ontario on Thursday afternoon November 17, 2022, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. A Funeral Service was held on Friday afternoon November 18, 2022, at 1 o'clock (Visitation one hour prior). Interment followed Pine Grove Cemetery Norland. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or Faith Tabernacle would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 6644 Hwy. #35, Coboconk, Ontario (705) 454-3913

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- Premier lake & 3 miles of boating
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Monday, December 5, 1994

Santa Claus makes his grand entrance

In what many are describing as the best parade this community has seen in a long time, Minden rolled out a slightly damp, but extremely warm welcome for Santa Claus Saturday afternoon. Co-ordinated by the Minden Lions Club, the parade featured a large selection of floats, two marching bands, including the county's newest flute band, many costumed characters and of course, the jolly old man himself. Hundreds lined the parade route between the arena and downtown. Following the parade, many children visited with Santa at the fire hall. For more photos from Santa's big day, see pages 6 and 7.



Bill 173 introduces new restrictions

Merchants struggle with new smoking rules

by Andrew Milne

Ontario's new Tobacco Control Act came into effect November 30.

The act, which among other things bans smoking in certain businesses serving the public, has received mixed reviews from local business owners.

Stu Brandon runs Northland Sales in Minden.

"It concerns me very much," says Brandon, "that the Rae government sees fit to meddle any more in my business."

"They pretty much," he continues, "with all their existing legislation, additional legislation since they were elected — want to get involved in the day to day operation. And now this just piled on top of the other I find outrageous. I don't disagree with the principle, but it's just one more piece of legislation that needs to be enforced at great expense to the taxpayer."

Brandon, along with many other local business owners, received a package in the mail, with details on the new restric-

tions, and glossy signs in French and English to be posted in his business.

Besides banning smoking in stores, financial institutions, video and amusement arcades, laundromats, hair salons, barber

shops and bus shelters and stations, Bill 119:

— makes it illegal to sell or give tobacco to anyone under the age of 19,

— requires persons selling tobacco to post health warn-

ings, age limits, and notices about identification to prove one is of age to purchase tobacco,

— bans the sale of "kiddie packs" — packages with fewer than 20 cigarettes,

— bans cigarette vending machines,

— requires a list of toxins on tobacco packages, in addition to the now familiar health warnings,

— bans the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies as of Dec. 31,

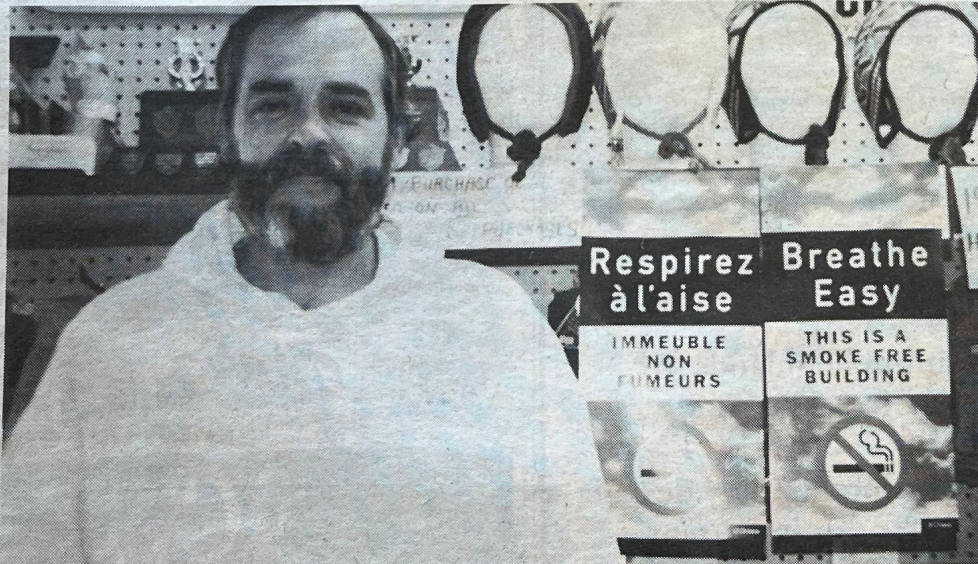
— restricts smoking to designated areas in malls, hospitals, colleges, and universities,

— requires clearly posted signs in areas in which smoking is restricted or prohibited, and

— sets out more severe fines and penalties for the sale of tobacco to minors, smoking in restricted areas, and the violation of any of the packaging requirements.

Lewis Stevens runs Stop 35, a restaurant on highway 35 in Minden. As a restaurant owner, he already provides smoking and non-smoking areas for his customers, and says he doesn't expect the new legislation will make a huge difference to him.

"It's between a rock and a
 (more on page 2)



Minden store owner Stuart Brandon with two of the no smoking signs provided by the provincial government. Brandon questions the cost of the anti-smoking campaign.

Milwaukee Promo

On til Jan 4!

Some conditions apply.

See in store for details.



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North Pigeon Lake \$775,000

- 3 bedroom / 1 bathroom, 900 SqFt
- Fully Winterized, Newly Built Bunkie
- Large Updated Windows Overlooking Lake
- Breathtaking Sunrise Views



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- Beautiful View of Barnum lake
- New 24x40 Detached Heated Shop



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Minden Home \$420,000

- 3 Bedroom Home on 48 Acres
- Many Outbuildings and Open Meadow
- 10 Minutes to Minden
- Home Needs Work, Sold "As Is"



Andy Campbell
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Acreage & Building Lot for \$499,000

- 98 acres north of Carnarvon
- 3300 feet Hwy 35 frontage
- Driveway in, site cleared
- Financing may be available to qualified buyer



Gloria Carnochan* &
Brean Bude*
754-1932

Kennisis Lake \$3,875,000

- 4 Beds / 3 Bath Home or Ctg w/ 255ft frontage
- Detached 2 Car Grg, Waters Edge Flagstone Firepit
- Games Rm, Home Gym, Elaborate Lakeside Deck
- Additional 2.3 Acres Available for Purchase



Mark Dennys*
457-0473

Haliburton Home \$499,900

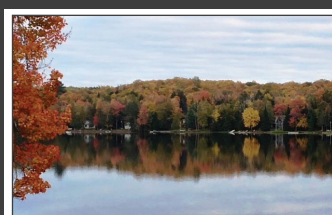
- 0.52 Acres, 132 Ft Road Frontage, 1321 Sq Ft
- 3 Bdrm, 4 pc, Bath, Many Upgrades
- Attached Workshop, Metal Roof, DbI Driveway
- Walk to Town Amenities, Minutes to Boat Launch



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

Beech Lake \$819,000

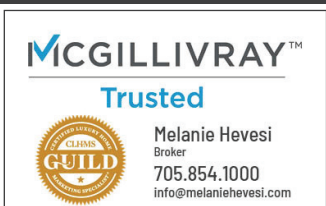
- Open concept 3-season cottage with 4 bedrooms
- Oversized 1 car-garage with & updated bunkie
- Clean, hard-packed sand beach & big lake views
- Amazing afternoon sun & sunsets!



Lindsay Elder*
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Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Irondale River \$519,000

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- Enjoy 300+ feet of frontage with western exp
- Updated interior with 3 bedrooms & 1 bath
- Updated bunkie for overflow & large shed



Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Miskwabi Lake \$999,900

- 4-season cottage on awesome 2-lake chain
- Clean, deep, big lake view, western sunse
- Year-round Municipal road access, 20 mins from Haliburton Village



Ashley McKeigue
705-854-1833

Oblong Lake \$649,000

- 0.9-acre parcel with north-western exposure
- Over 700 feet of clean, sand & rock frontage
- Driveway installed & building site partially cleared
- Part of a 2-lake chain with premium Haliburton



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Saskatchewan Lake

- 2 Beds / 1 Bath, 800 Sq Ft
- 344ft of Flat, Level Shoreline
- Bunkie for Overflow Guests
- The Perfect Traditional Cottage Getaway!



Brandon Nimigon**
457-2128 x 127

Building Lot \$238,000

- 290ft of Frtg, Close Proximity to Eagle Lk
- Nicely Treed 2.6 Acre Parcel
- Off Grid Property, Driveway Roughed In
- Abutting Properties For Sale!



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Building Lot \$288,000

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- Located Under 20 Minutes to Haliburton Village
- Currently Off Grid, Quiet Location
- 2 Abutting Parcels For Sale



Kelly Kay*
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Kirsten Rae*
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Haliburton Condo \$695,000

- Luxurious waterfront condo in Haliburton
- 1117 sq ft, 2 bath, 2 bedrooms plus den/office
- Many upgrades plus incredible water views from every room!



Darlene Reil*
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Loop Road

- \$189,000
- Very Private
- 4+ Acreage in Harcourt
- Several Choices of Building Sites



Christine Sharp*
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Investment Opportunity! \$495,000

- 5 Bdrm/2 Bath, 2200 Sq Ft
- 1.6 Acre, Features Legal Duplex
- Desirable Area Btwn Carnarvon & Haliburton
- Many Upgrades, Needs Finishing Touches!



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Beautiful Country Home \$699,000

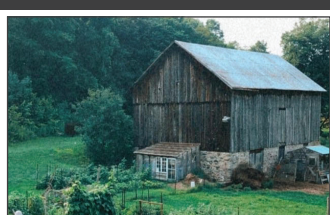
- 3 Beds / 2 Bath, 1800 Sq Ft
- 1.39 Acres, Huge Pond w/Sand Beach Area
- Detached 17x30 Garage/Workshop
- Access to Clement Lake Boat Launch



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Bethel Road \$599,900

- Incredible 194-acre parcel 5 mins from Minden
- Long gated driveway- private, cleared building site
- Large frontage on picturesque Walker's Pond
- Trails throughout to explore, teaming with wildlife



Lindsay Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 223

Tory Hill Home \$759,900

- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom, 1400+ Sq Ft
- Sits on 2.96 Acres, Cutest Little Hobby Farm!
- Beautiful Gardens & Very Well Maintained Barn



Andrea Wilson**
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Gull River

- 3 Beds / 2 Baths, 2500+ SqFt
- 1.77 Acres of Privacy, 20x20 workshop
- 3-Season (10x14) Sunroom
- 580ft of Pristine Riverfront on Gull River

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